

REVIEWS

West and West's Monograph of British Desmidiaceae. Vol. III*

In their third volume of the British Desmidiaceae, W. and G. S. West have nearly completed the genus *Cosmarium*, fifty species of which were already taken up in the latter part of volume two. In this third volume one hundred and seventy three species with their several varieties are taken up and illustrated by thirty plates (65-95), partly colored. The general plan of the earlier volumes is followed: synonymy, description, distribution, and general notes under each species. One new species, *Cosmarium entochondrum*, is described, also thirteen new varieties. In addition several new forms are described and a number of changes of rank and position made.

The figures are excellently drawn and in many cases show front, vertical, side, and basal views of the same specimen. The colored figures show the arrangement of the chloroplasts and pyrenoids in a number of species. In a very few cases variations of ornamentation are definitely shown.

The volume shows our great lack of knowledge of the sexual phases of the life history in this group, the number of species with zygospores being but 15 per cent. of the total and in some of these the zygospores are not mature. In a group as variable as the Desmidiaceae this lack of the sexual characters is all the more felt in determining the true relationships of apparently very similar forms.

This volume will do much to help the study of this genus, which has been difficult on account of the great number of species and the scattered literature.

JOSEPH A. CUSHMAN

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MAY 11, 1909

The meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History with Vice-president Barnhart in the chair. Ten persons were present.

* West, W. and West, G. S. Monograph of British Desmidiaceae. Vol. III. 1908. Ray Society. Dulau and Co., London.

Resignations were accepted from Miss Lenda Tracy Hanks, Miss Helen D. Nelson, and Mr. Arthur Smith.

The scientific program of the evening consisted of a lecture by Dr. William A. Murrill on "Edible Fungi", illustrated by specimens and by lantern slides.

Mushrooms were discussed from the popular side as objects of interest and as valuable relishes. The development and cultivation of the common field mushroom were briefly described. Poisonous species and their effects were described with care, and comparisons were made with edible species liable to be confused with them.

Fresh specimens of four early species were exhibited: the glistening ink-cap, *Coprinus micaceus*, which appeared the last week in April; the shaggy-mane, *Coprinus comatus*, which appeared about May 10 (unusually early for this species); *Pleurotus sapidus*, a relative of the oyster mushroom, just beginning to appear on old logs and stumps; and the morel, *Morchella*, which occurs on the ground in woods during May.

Lantern slides were used to illustrate the more important local species of edible fungi, beginning with agarics found on lawns and in fields, such as species of *Agaricus*, *Lepiota*, *Coprinus*, *Hypholoma*, and *Marasmius*. Species occurring on the ground in woods were next discussed, including *Lactaria*, *Russula*, *Tricholoma*, *Clitocybe*, and other important genera of gill-fungi. Wood-loving forms comprise a number of important species that are abundant and much used, such as *Armillaria mellea*, *Hypholoma perplexum*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *Pleurotus sapidus*, *Coprinus micaceus*, and *Collybia velutipes*.

Other groups of fungi containing edible species, were illustrated by *Clavaria*, *Hydnum*, certain tender forms of *Polyporus*, several species of *Boletus*, and a number of species of *Lycoperdon*. All species of coral-fungi and puffballs were recommended for food, provided the specimens were tender, young, and fresh.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary pro tem.